

RARE BOOKS

Economy in Printing Catalogues Improvement in the Trade Notes of Sales and News of Dealers

In these times of high prices for printing many rare book dealers have cut out the issue of catalogues. These men have not been impressed with the fact that there may be methods of compilation that will permit of considerable reduction in cost, but a recent catalogue from Anderson's shows what may be done in the conservation of space without loss in general attractiveness. Slightly smaller type, omission of things that all buyers know and general condensation have produced a catalogue of 917 numbers on fifty-two pages.

English dealers are also giving thought to this subject, a leading London dealer having adopted the system of abbreviation used in *Book Auction Prices*, saving an enormous amount of space and effecting a large reduction in printing cost.

There was a much better feeling in trade circles the past week, dealers reporting a decided improvement.

Complaint continues to be made that books of average value are hard to procure. The dependence of the trade on the auctions for this class of material in the past and the few offerings in those places this season have caused a great dearth. How to replenish the supply is giving some uneasiness in certain quarters.

O. Henry Prices.

Books and letters of O. Henry seem to have suffered a decided slump the past week. His *Four Million* sold for \$30, against a recent price of \$60, and letters were bought for as little as \$42.50, as against \$810.

The sudden death of Edwin O. Wood on April 28 is much regretted in the book trade. He was well known as an enthusiastic collector of the memorabilia of the Mackinaw region. He had for a considerable number of years bought everything he could find relating to the island, the waters and the early inhabitants of the section. His name was on the rolls of about all the historical associations, and he was an extensive writer on historical subjects. It is not known what disposition has been made of his fine collection.

R. Davis has moved his book shop across Vesey street to more commodious quarters.

The Marcus book store has been opened at 67 Court street, Brooklyn.

The Week's Sales.

At the American Art Association sale of the Moray Williams and J. Dunbar Wright libraries last Tuesday afternoon and evening very good prices were obtained: A set of the edition de luxe of Dickens, 60 volumes, bound by Baynter, \$325; autograph manuscripts of Eugene Field, from \$90 to \$210 each; seven O. Henry letters, from \$42.50 to \$165 each; autograph copy of *Home, Sweet Home*, \$230; autograph poem of James Whitcomb Riley, \$82.50; edition de luxe of Thackeray's works, 26 volumes, bound by Baynter, \$335.

The total for the two sessions was \$8,600, and closed the book sales for the season at these rooms.

Part Two of the Mark P. Robinson collection was sold at Anderson's last week. The sale was largely attended. Dr. Rosenbach of Philadelphia, Walter M. Hill of Chicago, Charles Sessler of Philadelphia, L. C. Harper, James F. Drake, George D. Smith, F. W. Morris, H. E. Huntington and many other collectors and dealers were present, Mr. Smith, as usual, being the largest buyer.

Prices obtained for leading items were: Pickering *Aldine Poets*, \$750; Arnold's *London Chronicle*, 1503, \$950; Audubon's *Birds and Quadrupeds*, \$300; Miles Coverdale's *Bible*, 1535, \$3,600; autograph poem of Robert Burns, \$810; another, \$860; autograph letter of Burns, \$520; Denver edition of *Arabian Nights*, \$160; 139 autograph letters of Mark Twain, \$475; Grimm's *Fairy Tales*, illustrated by Cruikshank, \$500; first edition of *Robinson Crusoe*, \$995; twelve letters of Dickens, \$275; Van der Donck's *Description of New Netherlands*, \$150; De Mure's *Mythological Dictionary*, 1472, \$1,000; first printed draft of the United States Constitution, \$475; autograph poem of Oliver Goldsmith, \$1,625; Cotton Mather's *Faithful Man*, \$900.

Many other high prices were secured and the total for the five sessions was \$104,532.95.

The sale of the Henry E. Huntington duplicates at Anderson's brought \$94,289. George D. Smith paid \$58,631 for the Shakespeare quartos.

Some time ago THE SUN told of the wonderful collection of autographic and other material that had been collected by Sir J. M. Barrie and Mr. E. V. Lucas to be auctioned off for the benefit of the men in the trenches. The sale has been held, covering sixteen days, with gross returns of \$775,000. No details have been received.

Although with the sale of April 30 the season for books at the American Art Association ended, there is no indication that other rooms will close before the usual time, about June 25.

Auctions Ahead.

At Anderson's, May 8-10, afternoons, the library of the late Charles McBurney, consisting of a fine collection of English and French literature, including many first editions of favorite authors, the classics, poetry, travel, biography, theology and other subjects. This is a reader's library and contains much of value, affording those who desire to add to their collections some books difficult to procure.

At Anderson's, May 13-16, afternoons and evenings, the library of the late W. H. Hagen, 1,466 lots, comprising a magnificent collection of the great things in English literature; not a name is missing from the roll of famous authors from late in 1500 down to 1916. Donne, Dryden, Gray, Milton, Pope and many others are represented by numerous volumes, and not since the dispersal of the Hoe library has so fine a lot of treasures reached the block.

Replies to Questions.

H. C. B., Mount Holly, N. J.—Jefferson's *Notes*, London, 1787, is worth about \$4. It sells at retail for \$6. The *Memorial*, containing a summary view, &c., is an English translation of a French governmental publication that was published in Paris in 1756. It had two issues in New York, one by J. Parker and W. Weyman and the other by Hugh Gaine, and has no special value. The other books on your list are of little value.

Beyond Architecture

By A. Kingsley Porter of Yale University
Author of "Mediaeval Architecture," "Lombard Architecture," etc.

Mr. Porter treats of broad principles applicable not only to architecture, but also to the other arts, painting and sculpture, even music and literature. He demonstrates that beyond architecture as eternal principles of beauty lie significance and content.

It is only in modern times that art has set itself no higher goal than art itself, and this abandonment of an ulterior idea has led to precipitate decline. Hope for the future of American Art, the author concludes, lies in a return to intellectuality. This is a revolutionary contribution to criticism which no architect, artist or person interested in art can afford not to read.

9 Illustrations, 8 vo. \$2.00.

MARSHALL JONES COMPANY, PUBLISHERS
212 SUMMER STREET :: :: :: BOSTON, MASS.

"Bairnsfather"



A FRAGMENT.

THE title of the picture immediately above this spot is *A Fragment* and it comes straight out of the pages of *Bairnsfather: A Few Fragments From His Life*, published by G. P. Putnam's Sons. The fragments, according to the title page, were collected by a friend. It is a privilege to view the remains, and there is nothing mournful about the business, either—not much! The text of the book consists of "critical chapters" by Vivian Carter, and they are as amusing

as the pictures, though serious (not too serious; merely descriptive) in spots. A pleasurable affair, this book, and having written these few words to call attention to it we shall wrap it up and send it to Private Charles Divine at Spartanburg, an editor of *Gas Attack* and a poet and a lover of good reading.

BAIRNSFATHER: A FEW FRAGMENTS FROM HIS LIFE. TEXT BY VIVIAN CARTER. G. P. Putnam's Sons, \$1.25.

"Nemesis of Mediocrity"

THERE have been great changes in the last two hundred years. Have they been for the better? Is our life today—our world life—spiritually poor? Must we go back to the faith and spiritual aspiration of the Middle Ages if we are to avoid chaos such as has already engulfed Russia?

Ralph Adams Cram suggests these questions in his fifty page essay, *The Nemesis of Mediocrity*. Like Carlyle and Ruskin, he sees in the scientific and mechanistic tendencies of the time the source of all cosmic misfortune.

He goes further than Carlyle and Ruskin. These could only prophesy; Mr. Cram claims to look upon an almost completed process.

Machinery has dulled the body vitality and the soul. The masses have gradually been tending toward a treadmill sort of existence; this has brought spiritual apathy; spiritual apathy has brought second rate leaders—for Emerson, Hearst; for Darwin and Carlyle, Kahn and Rockefeller; for Disraeli and Cavour, the age crippled Hertling and the opportunistic Lloyd George.

Germany seems most successful among

nations and she has reduced the quenching of vivid personality to a fine art; the man is lost in the system. Democracy, fighting for its life, has found nothing better to copy than this absolutism. If democracy wins the great question will be to make it safe for the world. With its looseness, its cheapness, its spiritual dearth it is now smothering the world.

Mr. Cram has presented this thesis with vivid phraseology and copious example. His remedy might be termed evangelistic. There must be a "spiritual regeneration of the great mass of people," or "the coming once more of the great prophets and captains of men." In short, Ruskin's gospel of moral force and Carlyle's gospel of devotion to the spiritual leader are Mr. Cram's remedies just as their object of attack is his.

It is here that we may look for the weakness in Mr. Cram's vivid little book. Like Ruskin, like Carlyle, he tends to denounce industrialism as such.

While such a denunciation may satisfy many who feel that a life which turns to routine and offices is opposing natural and high forces, it is open to the criticism that perhaps it is our emphasis on industrialism and not industrialism itself which is bad. It is open to suggest that we may gain more by pushing through industrialism and science than by retreating from them.

THE NEMESIS OF MEDIOCRITY. BY RALPH ADAMS CRAM. Marshall Jones Company. \$1.

BEFORE THE WIND

By Janet Laing

A delightful comedy full of silent laughter and chuckles. Place, the coast of Scotland. Time, the present. Principal characters, seven women, not very young; one man, not very young also. A young girl and a V. C. disguised as a chauffeur. Villain and Villainess not so very bad. An underground passage, robbery, love and a Zeppelin raid furnish the many startling incidents and amusing results.

\$1.50 Net. Passage Extra. All Bookstores. Do not forget to help the Salvation Army War Work Fund this week. E. P. DUTTON & CO., 681 Fifth Ave., N. Y.

Book Exchange

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